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EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

On page 2278 of this issue of the Public Health Reports are given telegraphic summaries from State health officers showing disease conditions throughout the United States.

The reports, which are for the week ended December 14, 1918, indicate that the number of cases of influenza was increasing in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York. Decreases in the number of cases reported were noted in California, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Ohio. In Virginia more cases were reported than during the preceding week, but the situation was said to be improving. The disease was said to be on the decline in the State of Washington. Recrudescence of influenza was reported from several cities in West Virginia.

The following table shows the later course of the epidemic in the zones surrounding military camps in the United States. The cases reported before October 27, 1918, in these zones are shown by weeks in the Public Health Reports, volume 33, number 49, December 6, 1918, pages 2153-2154.

Cases of influenza reported in extra-cantonment zones.

State and zone.	Cases reported to Oct. 26, 1918.	Cases reported week ended—						
		Nov. 2.	Nov. 9.	Nov. 16.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.
Massachusetts:								
Devens.....	175	13	11	24	6	0	11	56
Connecticut:								
New London sanitary district.....	3,139	114	77	66	73	94	74	35
New Jersey:								
Dix.....	217	57	89	2	0	4	0	0
Meritt.....					12	25	15	33
Ohio:								
Sherman.....	2,042	69	26	38	54	58	52	128
Iowa:								
Dodge.....	1,776	126	208	40	519	934	2,949	827
Kansas:								
Funston.....	814	173	75	94	79	235	441	357
Leavenworth.....	461	143	95	118	162	400	353	238
Virginia:								
Humphreys.....	930	72	21	0	6	19	7	26
Lee.....	7,515	305	79	0	2	7	434	529
Portsmouth and Norfolk County health district.....	11,304	145	8	7	9	0	131	907
Tidewater health district.....	3,847	804	2	0	2	0	2	256
North Carolina:								
Greene.....	2,061	61	49	52	100	173	573	347
Polk.....			284		314	294	459	524
South Carolina:								
Charleston sanitary district.....		208	172	70	78	175	75	385
Jackson.....	7,656	87	6	13	53	35	42	300
Sevier.....	3,316	166	3	4	278	117	237	242
Wadsworth.....	1,172	234	49	112	144	126	285	304

Cases of influenza reported in extra-cantonment zones—Continued.

State and zone.	Cases reported to Oct. 26, 1918.	Cases reported week ended—						
		Nov. 2.	Nov. 9.	Nov. 16.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 14.
Georgia:								
Gas and Flame School.....	3,506	531	260	233	85	93	184	818
Gordon.....	3,149	372	134	124	172	141	122	282
Hancock.....	996	281	153	259	290	33	31	61
Pieric-acid plant.....	743	42	41	14	16	14	40	111
Wheeler.....	1,990	522	253	257	671	523	529	218
Florida:								
Johnston.....	5,436	233	10	0	3	8	10	41
Kentucky and Indiana:								
Taylor.....	9,857	1,146	513	454	837	935	1,485	1,520
Georgia and Tennessee:								
Oglethorpe.....	3,644	73	26	11	2	38	24	12
Alabama:								
McClellan.....	1,586	232	38	229	105	90	124	148
Sheridan.....	560	55	1	32	80	99	354	306
Mississippi:								
Gulfport health district.....	4,678	753	388	227	113	206	221	270
Shelby.....	891	107	50	6	179	35	90	335
Arkansas:								
Eberts.....	1,662	219	44	118	33	75	154	137
Pike.....	9,406	324	94	76	95	209	568	249
Louisiana:								
Beauregard.....	3,445	253	78	33	8	5	69	253
Gerstner Field.....		360	186	174	177	309	917	420
Oklahoma:								
Doniphan.....	296	12	4	5	2	8	16
Texas:								
Bowie.....	1,313	68	32	38	14	36	269	288
Logan.....	468	341	1	0	0	26	79
MacArthur.....	1,065	233	75	10	5	12	32	42
Travis.....	5,781	844	385	124	149	254	1,206	1,264
Washington:								
Bremerton.....	533	77	82	46	47	60	0	385
Lewis.....	135	72	44	32	12	7	30	12
Vancouver.....	642	156	183	47	120	154	249	329

GUARDING AGAINST INFLUENZA.

An erroneous interpretation having been placed upon an interview with the Surgeon General, relative to the influenza situation, the United States Public Health Service has issued a warning emphasizing the danger of relaxing precautions against the epidemic. The epidemic is not ended and such recrudescences of cases and deaths as are now occurring in many localities may be expected to become more or less general.

Commenting upon the interpretation given to a prior interview, Surgeon General Blue said, "I may have been misunderstood, but I thought I had emphasized the fact that not only was the epidemic still present in many parts of the country, but in a number of places it is even more prevalent than it was in the early part of the epidemic. Any statement at the present time that the epidemic has 'come and gone for good' can only do harm, for it will lull people into a false sense of security, and cause them to relax the precautions they should take to avoid the infection."

At the recent meeting of the American Public Health Association, considerable attention was devoted to the subject of influenza. Attended by health officers from all over the country and from